

2017-133 Bed Bug Policy



Westbrook Fire & Rescue Department

Standard Operating Procedure

Section: Routine Operations	TOPIC: Bed Bug Policy
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POLICY REFERENCES:	APPROVED BY: <hr/> <p>Andrew R. Turcotte Chief of Department</p>

Purpose:

This policy will address the steps necessary to maintain a bed bug free fire station and limit the opportunity for transmission of bed bugs to our facilities and ultimately, to the homes of our members.

Policy:

In the station

There shall be no cardboard, loose linens, or fabrics allowed lying on the floor. All personal items shall be placed in personal plastic bags if no space is available in your locker. Items found lying on the floor shall be removed to the apparatus bay floor to be claimed, in a timely manner, by owner. (If the bed spread or any part of the bed covers are on the bed and the floor at the same time, bed bugs have a route to get on to the bed.)

- All living quarters shall be vacuumed per the cleaning schedule. In addition, the bunk room shall be thoroughly cleaned every Saturday. This cleaning shall include a visual inspection of mattresses, covers, pillows, and associated linen.
- If during the weekly cleaning, all steps have been followed per the SOP; and evidence of bed bugs is apparent:
 - Contact the Deputy Chief immediately
- The Deputy will arrange for a cleaning company to come in and do a thorough cleaning.
- All mattresses shall have a department issued, impermeable mattress cover. All bed linen shall be maintained in a clean fashion. Mattress covers will be laundered on a **WEEKLY** basis; unless upon visual inspection there is evidence of contamination, than **ALL** mattress covers and **ALL** linens will be laundered immediately per SOP instruction.

Prevention

- Clothing, shoes, coats etc., that are suspected of being exposed to bed bugs, shall be properly treated before they are taken into the dorm or other living areas of the fire station.

- If bed bugs are found in the fire station, the following procedure shall apply. The fire station living quarters shall be immediately cleaned by the following steps:
 - Floors swept and mopped or vacuumed.
 - All bedding, sheets, pillow cases, and comforters shall be dried immediately. Drying will last 20 minutes on the highest heat setting possible. Items will then be washed and dried a second time for at least 20 minutes at the highest heat setting possible.
 - Walls and baseboards shall be “wiped down” with Cavicide disinfectant cleaner.
 - Personal linen shall be placed in dryer on high heat for at least 20 minutes and then should be washed and dried.
 - Company Officers shall notify a Chief Officer immediately who shall assure that all department members are informed of the situation via their assigned officer.

When Delivering Service to the Public

- When responding to a known location with bed bugs or a location where a high level of suspicion exists, we should limit the number of personnel and equipment exposed to only the number that is needed to deliver /assist with care.
- Have a team member on bed bug alert, looking for any signs of infestation. If bed bug evidence is found, warn your colleagues without offending the patient/family/bystanders by stating “environmental protection will be needed.”
- All personnel shall don shoe covers. Pant legs shall be tucked into boots or rolled so as not to touch top of shoe cover.
- Do not sit on or set items on beds or couches if possible.
- Place plastic bags on the floor before you kneel down to work on a patient. Set equipment down on the plastic bags.
- Bunker coat/pants are difficult to treat and when possible, shall not be worn on medical calls when no hazard exists requiring their use. It is understood that we cannot completely eliminate the wearing of turnout gear in every situation. Personnel shall only wear turnout gear when dressing in the station uniform would delay response and personnel must be aware of the risk of wearing turnout gear as it relates to bed bugs. (Turnout gear should NOT be exposed to the heat of the dryer nor shall the Cavicide disinfectant spray be used on turnout gear. Turnout gear decontamination will be covered later in the SOP.)
- Following the call and as soon as possible, turnout gear shall be inspected paying special attention to seams, cuffs, crevices, etc. This will be done before entering the apparatus. This can be accomplished by completely taking all turnout gear off in the yard and checking each other’s gear.
- The report writer will indicate in the narrative of the EMS and/or fire report that there was an exposure to bed bugs during the call for service.

- Contact the Fire Chief, who will complete a follow up inspection as the City Health Officer.

If bed bugs are noted or suspected on any fire department personnel/vehicle the following steps shall be taken:

- Personnel shall not go into any living quarters of the fire station. They shall not sit on any furniture.
- Personnel shall take themselves out of service. The ambulance or fire apparatus shall be decontaminated with Cavicide disinfectant while wearing appropriate PPE (eye protection/mask.)
- Vehicle shall also be vacuumed thoroughly. The Vacuum will be emptied into the dumpster.
- All exposed medic cases, bags and equipment shall be inspected and cleaned with Cavicide disinfectant cleaner.
- Bunker pants and coats shall not be sprayed or cleaned with Cavicide.
- If bunker gear is found to have bed bugs, immediately bag the entire ensemble and notify a Chief Officer.
- Personnel shall shower.
- Personnel shall have extra duty clothes in order to limit the amount of time out of service.

Turnout Gear

According to the entomologist, it is highly unlikely that bed bugs would remain on turnout gear. Simple inspection is the best method of detecting bed bugs on turnout gear and killing any bugs found.

Should turnout gear be found to have bed bugs:

- Smash any bed bugs found on the gear. The gear shall be bagged and the bag shall be tied shut securely and stored away from other gear and not inside the fire station.
- Notify the Deputy Chief of the situation.
 - The Deputy will arrange for cleaning by a commercial company.